

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1-2. This sheet, which includes Figs. 1-2, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 1-2.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

This Amendment amends the specification; cancels Claims 1-27; adds new Claims 28-45; and provides a Replacement Drawing Sheet for Figs. 1-2. Support for the amendments is found in the specification and claims as originally filed. In particular, support for the amendments to the specification is found in the original claims. Support for new Claim 28 is found in canceled Claim 1. Support for new Claim 29 is found in canceled Claim 2. Support for new Claim 30 is found in canceled Claim 3. Support for new Claim 31 is found in canceled Claim 5 (at b)-d)). Support for new Claim 32 is found in canceled Claim 9. Support for new Claim 33 is found in canceled Claim 10. Support for new Claims 34-35 is found in canceled Claim 11. Support for new Claims 36-37 is found in canceled Claim 12. Support for new Claim 38 is found in canceled Claim 15. Support for new Claim 39 is found in canceled Claim 18. Support for new Claim 40 is found in canceled Claim 19. Support for new Claim 41 is found in canceled Claim 21. Support for new Claims 42-45 is found in canceled Claim 24. No new matter would be introduced by entry of these amendments.

Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 28-45 will be pending in this application. Claim 28 is independent.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing and reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, in light of the remarks that follow.

The present invention relates to a glazing panel providing improved fire protection or fire screening. Specification at page 1, lines 2-3. The glazing panel includes an interlayer of PVB having a maximum heat release rate of less than 650 kW/m². Specification at page 1, lines 14-21; Claim 1.

Claims 1-5, 9-11, 13-19 and 21-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over EP 1 044 801 ("EP-801").

Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over EP-801 in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,173,668 ("Hentzelt").

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over EP-801 in view of Hentzelt.

Claims 12 and 26-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over EP-801 in view of GB 2 258 422 ("GB-422").

EP-801 discloses in Fig. 2 a fire protection glass in which two glass panes 1 are separated by a fire retardant layer 2; one of the two glass panes 1 is separated from a glass pane 4 by another fire retardant layer 2; and the glass pane 4 is separated from a glass pane 5 by a laminating layer 6 of **ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymers (EVA)**. EP-801 at [0022].

However, EP-801 fails to disclose or suggest the independent Claim 28 limitations that "the interlayer is a **polyvinyl butyral (PVB) based material**; and the interlayer has a maximum heat release rate of less than 650 kW/m²".

The attached Test report according to ISO standard 5660-1 (pages 5 and 7) and Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. 1.132 show that "a maximum heat release rate of less than 650 kW/m²" is not inherent (i.e., necessarily present) in a polyvinyl butyral (PVB) based material. The samples identified on page 5 have a maximum rate of heat release (RHR) ranging from 811.59 to 853.59 kW/m², which is almost twice the maximum rate of heat release (RHR) ranging from 384.72 to 453.75 kW/m² for the samples on page 7.

The secondary references fail to remedy the deficiencies of EP-801.

The Office Action at section 9 cites Hentzelt for disclosing the use of infrared coatings with a glazing, and at section 10 cites Hentzelt for disclosing a solar control or heat reflective coating.

The Office Action at section 11 cites GB-422 for disclosing the water content of an intumescent layer.

However, Hentzelt and GB-422 fail to remedy the deficiencies of EP-801.

Because the cited prior art fails to disclose or suggest the independent Claim 28 limitations that "the interlayer is a **polyvinyl butyral (PVB) based material**; and the interlayer has a maximum heat release rate of less than 650 kW/m²", the prior art rejections should be withdrawn.

The drawings are objected to. To obviate the objection, a Replacement Sheet for Figs. 1-2 is provided.

The disclosure is objected to. To obviate the objection, the specification is amended by deleting references to claim numbers.

Claims 1, 4-6 and 9-10 are objected to. To obviate the objection, the claims are amended.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Andrew M. Ollis
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 40,749

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/07)

Corwin P. Umbach, Ph.D.
Registration No. 40,211

Attached: Replacement Sheet for Figs. 1-2
Test report according to ISO standard 5660-1 (pages 5 and 7), with
English-language translation and
Translator's certification.
Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. 1.132